

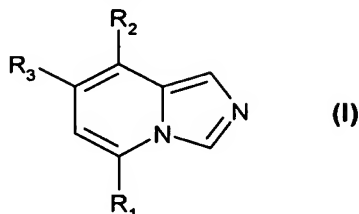
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 21 (cancel)

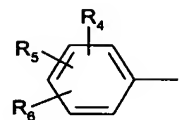
Claim 22 (new): A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

R₁ is cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl or an aryl radical of the formula

in which



R₄ is cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl; or

R₄ is optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or trifluoromethyl provided that both R₅ and R₆ are not hydrogen;

R₅ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or

R₄ and R₅ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring provided that R₄ and R₅ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other; or

R₄ and R₅ combined are alkylene which taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered ring provided that R₄ and R₅ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;

R₆ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted amino, alkoxy, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfonyl or carbamoyl;

R₂ and R₃ are, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; or

R₂ and R₃ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring; or

R₂ and R₃ combined are alkylene which taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered ring;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

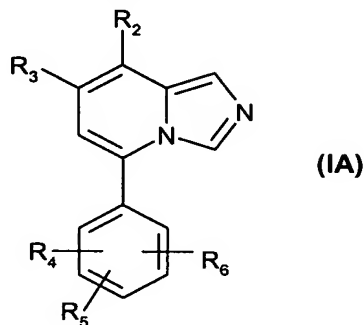
Claim 23 (new): A compound according to claim 22, wherein

R₁ is heterocyclyl;

R₂ and R₃ are hydrogen;

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 24 (new): A compound according to claim 22 of the formula (IA)



wherein

R₂ and R₃ are, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; or

R₂ and R₃ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring; or

R₂ and R₃ combined are alkylene which taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered ring;

R₄ is cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl; or

R₄ is optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or trifluoromethyl provided that both R₅ and R₆ are not hydrogen;

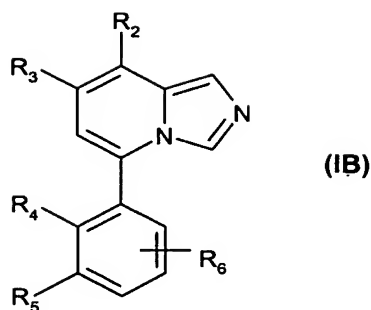
R₅ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or

R₄ and R₅ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring provided that R₄ and R₅ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;

R₆ is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted amino, alkoxy, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfonyl or carbamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 25 (new): A compound according to claim 24 of the formula (IB)



wherein

R_2 and R_3 are, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; or

R_2 and R_3 combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- to 6-membered ring;

R_4 is cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl; or

R_4 is hydroxy, halogen or trifluoromethyl provided that both R_5 and R_6 are not hydrogen;

R_5 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or

R_4 and R_5 combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring;

R_6 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted amino, alkoxy, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfonyl or carbamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 26 (new): A compound according to claim 25, wherein

R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 27 (new): A compound according to claim 25, wherein

R_4 is monocyclic aryl or heteroaryl;

R_5 is hydrogen;

R_6 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 28 (new): A compound according to claim 25, wherein

R_4 and R_5 combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring;

R_6 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 29 (new): A compound according to claim 22 which is selected from:

5-Naphthalen-1-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine;

5-Biphenyl-4-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine;

5-Biphenyl-2-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine;

5-Benzofuran-3-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine; and

4-Imidazo[1,5-a]pyridin-5-yl-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 30 (new): A method for the inhibition of aldosterone synthase activity in mammals which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22.

Claim 31 (new): A method for the prevention and/or treatment of conditions associated with aldosterone synthase activity in mammals which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22.

Claim 32 (new): A method according to claim 31, which method comprises administering said compound in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of anti-obesity agent, anti-hypertensive agent, inotropic agent or hypolipidemic agent.

Claim 33 (new): A method for the prevention and/or treatment of conditions associated with aldosterone synthase activity in mammals which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 25.

Claim 34 (new): A method for the treatment of hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, renal failure, in particular, chronic renal failure, restenosis, atherosclerosis, syndrome X, obesity, nephropathy, post-myocardial infarction, coronary heart diseases, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis and remodeling following hypertension and endothelial dysfunction,, which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22.

Claim 35 (new): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

Claim 36 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 35 for the treatment of hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, coronary heart diseases, post myocardial infarction, restenosis, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis, and remodeling following hypertension, endothelial dysfunction, renal failure, nephropathy, syndrome X and obesity.

Claim 37 (new): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22 in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of anti-obesity agent, anti-hypertensive agent, inotropic agent or hypolipidemic agent.

Claim 38 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 37 for the treatment of hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, coronary heart diseases, post myocardial infarction, restenosis, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis, and remodeling following hypertension, endothelial dysfunction, renal failure, nephropathy, syndrome X and obesity.

Claim 39 (new): A combination, comprising a compound of claim 22 and another therapeutic agent selected from an anti-obesity agent, anti-hypertensive agent, inotropic agent or hypolipidemic agent.